

FOR MORE INFORMATION

In addition to this handbook, BLS and CHRR prepare and distribute a variety of materials designed to inform the research community about the NLS program. This chapter describes the various documents available to the public, including general and technical publications, special summary reports, bibliographies, and research papers. Persons wishing to order any item should complete and return the publication request forms found at the end of this chapter.

NLS News

All purchasers of NLS data and other interested persons receive this complimentary quarterly newsletter. Previous issues of *NLS News* can be found at <http://stats.bls.gov/nlshome.htm>. The newsletter contains:

- Updates on the status and availability of the various NLS data releases
- Notices of errors found in the data files or documentation
- Citations for completed NLS research
- Topical information on areas of interest in the surveys
- Other information of general interest to the NLS research community

Technical manuals

NLS User's Guides. These guides to accessing NLS data and documentation are designed for researchers working with one or more of the NLS data sets. Separate cohort-specific guides are published in conjunction with each survey round for the continuing cohorts—the NLS of Mature Women, the NLS of Young Women, NLSY79, and NLSY97. These documents function to (1) introduce the reader to the NLS program, the various NLS cohorts, and the public-use data releases; (2) present discussions of important subsets of NLS variables; and (3) describe the components of the NLS documentation system. A new *NLS of Older and Young Men User's Guide* is forthcoming; contact NLS User Services for this resource on the discontinued men's cohorts. Some information about the Children of the NLSY79 is included in the *NLSY79 User's Guide*; users interested specifically in the Children of the NLSY79 should also consult the *Child Handbook* and other child documentation de-

scribed in the next section.

The user's guides discuss sampling design and fielding procedures, sample representativeness and attrition, sample sizes and retention rates, reasons for noninterview, created variables, and weighting for all cohorts, as well as design effects for the NLSY79 and NLSY97. Each guide also contains topical discussions of sets of NLS variables, including variable summaries, references to relevant survey instruments or documentation items, and cautionary notes to users about any inconsistencies in, or special considerations in using, those sets of variables. Finally, the guides describe the paper copy and electronic documentation items distributed with each data set. Included are discussions of the organization and content of the NLS data-collection instruments; the NLS search and extraction software that facilitates identification of variables of interest; and the NLS codebook system that provides core information on each variable's coding categories, frequency distribution, universe, and source.

Figure 9.1 lists the topical areas of discussion for the NLSY97 guide, and figure 9.2 lists the topics in the NLSY79, mature women, and young women guides.

NLSY79 child documentation. The NLSY79 child documentation informs data users about certain nuances of the various assessments and the limitations of these data; it then provides specific instructions on how to properly access and use the child assessment variables. Of particular interest are discussions of the nature of the mother and child samples and the longitudinal nature of the child assessment data. A report, entitled "Patterning of Child Assessment Completion Rates in the NLSY: 1986–1996" (CHRR, 1998) documents patterns of assessment completion through the 1996 survey. The *NLSY79 1998 Child and Young Adult Data Users Guide* (CHRR, 2000) provides additional important information for users of these data; for specific tabular information, users should refer to the round 16, round 17, or round 18 editions of the *NLSY79 Child Assessments Selected Tables* (CHRR, 1997, 1998, 2000). The *NLSY79 Child Handbook (1986–90)* summarizes the overall administration of child assessments during this period.

Together, these manuals and reports describe each of the child assessments administered during the biennial child

Figure 9.1. User's guide topical areas: NLSY97

Aptitude, achievement, and intelligence scores Achievement tests Administration of the <i>CAT-ASVAB</i> <i>PIAT Math Test</i> Education College experience Educational status and attainment School-based learning programs School experience <i>School Survey</i> (1997) Employment Employers and jobs Fringe benefits Gaps in employment Industry Job search Labor force status Occupation Self-employment characteristics Tenure Time spent at work Wages Work experience Event history Expectations, attitudes, behaviors, and time use Alcohol use Attitudes	Autonomy and parental control Cigarette use Crime, delinquency, and arrest Drug use Expectations Sexual activity and dating Time use Family background and demographic characteristics Age of respondent Gender Geographic indicators Household and neighborhood environment Household composition Nonresident characteristics Parent characteristics Race and ethnicity Youth history Health Income, program participation, and assets Assets and debts Income Program participation Marital history and fertility Fertility, pregnancy, and children Marital and marriage-like relationships Training
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Figure 9.2. User's guide topical areas: Mature women (MW), young women (YW), and NLSY79 (79)

Age Alcohol use Aptitude, achievement, and intelligence scores (YW, 79) Attitudes and expectations Child care Cigarette use Class of worker Crime, delinquency, and arrest records (YW, 79) Discrimination Drug use (79) Educational attainment Family background Fertility Fringe benefits Gender (79) Geographic residence and environmental characteristics Government training and jobs programs (79) Health High school survey and college information (YW) Household composition Income and assets Industries	Job characteristics (YW, 79) Job satisfaction Job search (MW, YW) Jobs and employers (79) Labor force status Marital status and marital transitions Military (79) Occupations Pension benefits and pension plans Poverty status and public assistance support sources Race, ethnicity, and nationality School and transcript surveys (79) School discipline (YW, 79) Sexual activity and contraception (79) Social Security and disability (MW, YW) Time and tenure with employers (79) Training Transfers (YW, MW) Wages Work experience Work history data (79)
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surveys and the criteria used in their selection. They supply information regarding the field procedures used in administering the assessments, the interviewer training required, and the types of field conditions encountered. Indicators of the reliability and validity of the assessments are presented, as well as references to other studies that used the same or similar measures. The documents discuss the scoring of the assessments and the types of summary scores available. Descriptive materials about the assessments include tabular information relating the distribution of the various outcome scores to a number of child and maternal characteristics, correlations between assessments, selected reliability coefficients, and a discussion of potential biases due to attrition.

Summary reports

Also available to users are several reports that summarize either special data collections or selected sets of NLS variables. The following reports are currently distributed:

NLS Older Male Sample Revisited. This volume introduces the reader to the 1990 resurvey of the NLS older men cohort, to which 2,092 members of the original sample and 2,206 widows or other family members of deceased sample members responded. The document first introduces the purpose and content of the 1990 survey; seven additional sections on mortality, physical well-being, emotional well-being, family and friendship support systems, economic well-being, current and prospective labor market activity, and status of the widows provide an overview of the data. The 56 tables and accompanying descriptive text in the seven sections (1) describe and illustrate the categories of data that were collected, (2) record the sizes of various subsets of the sample (for example, the number of men who were employed in the year preceding the survey), (3) present some simple relationships that invite more-sophisticated analysis, and (4) provide some evidence on the reliability and validity of several of the psychological scales used in the survey. Although the tabulations presented within this volume are based on preliminary data, researchers will find the results useful in developing their research plans and deciding whether the database meets their needs.

Patterning of Child Assessment Completion Rates in the NLSY79: 1986–1996. This paper examines completion rate patterns in the child data for the period 1986–96 by looking for evidence of changes in interview quality, changes associated with the transition to CAPI interviewing, and connections between child or family characteristics and completion patterns. The report focuses on the completion rates of the *PIAT Math Test*, *PIAT Reading Test*, and the *Behavior Problems Index*.

NLSY79 Children: 1992 Description and Evaluation. This report describes the 1992 child assessment data, including completion rates for all assessments by age, race, and ethnicity. Systematically explored within a multivariate context are (1) the independent association between a wide range of socioeconomic and demographic characteristics and all of the 1992 assessment scores, and (2) the extent to which the full range of 1986 assessment scores are useful predictors of many of the 1992 scores.

This analysis provides information about the internal validities of many of the NLSY79 child assessments, particularly those targeting the younger children in 1986. The report explores the extent to which hyperactivity of the child or the presence of others in the testing environment affects a child's performance on a number of the 1992 assessments.

The Ten-and-Over Years: Self-Reports from the Children of the NLSY79: 1990 Tabulations and Summary Discussion. This report describes the sample of 1,116 children aged 10 and older who responded to the *Child Self-Administered Supplement* during the 1990 survey. This instrument collected self-reports on a wide range of topics, including parent-child activities and decision-making, school satisfaction, after-school employment, and religious involvement. Other topics included in this administration were friendship networking; dating and sexual initiation; future education, family, and career expectations; and substance use and participation in other illicit activities. This report presents narrative overviews of the types of data collected and tabular summaries of these data.

Children of the NLSY79: 1988 Tabulation & Summary Discussion. This document describes the child assessment data collected in the 1988 round of the NLSY79. The tables present the characteristics of the children and their mothers, the distribution of scores and completion rates for each assessment, and correlations between assessment scores and subscores in 1988, as well as selected cross-year correlations between 1986 and 1988 assessment scores. These data may be useful in clarifying issues of reliability and validity.

Maternal-Child Health Data from the NLSY79: 1988 Tabulations and Summary Discussion. This report provides narrative descriptions and tabular summaries of the prenatal, infant, and child health information collected during the 1983–88 NLSY79 rounds. It describes a range of maternal and child pre- and postnatal behaviors, including prenatal care, use of sonograms and amniocentesis, cigarette and alcohol use, and infant feeding. This report also discusses the health status information collected biennially for all NLSY79 children. Brief descriptions highlight data quality and other substantive issues of interest.

NLS bibliography database

NLS User Services maintains an up-to-date archive of NLS research. The electronic NLS database stores records of more than 3,400 NLS-based journal articles, working papers, conference papers, monographs, theses, and dissertations published during the past three decades.

The NLS bibliographic database, accessible on the Internet (<http://www.nlsbibliography.org>), allows users to search, retrieve, and print customized listings of NLS research. Each search produces an annotated bibliography of all citations matching user specifications. Users may conduct database retrievals using any of the search fields described below; search types can be combined to produce more-refined results.

AUTHOR: Select one or more authors from the list of more than 2,000 authors of NLS research and retrieve all citations by the author(s) selected.

TITLE: Select a single title from the title list (such as “What Researchers Have Learned from the NLS about Youth Unemployment”) or search the title field by supplying the specific title term(s) to be searched (for instance, titles of research entries containing the words “siblings” [or] “brothers” [or] “sisters”).

CITATION: Choose a source of NLS research, such as a journal name (for example, *Econometrica*) or the name of a professional conference (such as Population Association of America). It is then possible to retrieve a list of all NLS research from that source or to search the title field by supplying the specific source term(s) to be searched (for instance, citation sources containing “conference” or “school of”).

KEYWORD (replaces DESCRIPTOR): Select one or more of the 580 keywords that describe the research projects and retrieve all citations to which those topical keywords have been assigned.

COHORT: Select one or more of the NLS sample groups (such as the mature women) and retrieve citations associated with the selected cohort(s).

FORMAT: Select one or more of the types of publications (such as monographs, journal articles, working papers) and retrieve all citations of each type.

YEAR: Select one or more years of publication and retrieve all citations published in the selected year(s).

ABSTRACT: Supply terms to search the abstract fields of the citations. This search is useful when the supplied term does not exist as a keyword or has not been assigned to a citation.

NLSY79 child bibliographies

Nonannotated bibliographies present research based on the NLSY79 fertility, child care, and child development data collections. Updated periodically, these topical publications list published articles, monographs, theses, reports, and presentations that use data from the NLSY79 and Children of the NLSY79.

“Research Using NLSY79 Data on Fertility, Child Care, & Child Development” (Bibliography No. 1 in Series)
 “Child Assessment Research” (Bibliography No. 2 in Series)

Research analyses

CHRR research reports. NLS User Services continues to distribute NLS research reports prepared over the past three decades by CHRR’s research staff. These reports include (1) the individual cohort research volumes, which present analyses of data from round-specific data collections of the older men, young men, mature women, young women, and NLSY79, and (2) other special reports prepared by CHRR investigators.

Persons interested in ordering any of these documents (distributed by volume or chapter) should contact NLS User Services by e-mail at usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu.

BLS research reports. Staff at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and external researchers and organizations funded through the BLS grants program conduct ongoing analyses of data from the NLS. Results are published in occasional news releases and *Monthly Labor Review* articles, as well as in an *NLS Discussion Paper* series. Users can obtain all of these publications through the Internet at <http://stats.bls.gov>. Users also can request these publications through e-mail at NLS_Info@bls.gov or by calling (202) 691-7410.

NLS Publication Request Form

Please check the space beside the desired item and complete the shipping information on the following page. The documents listed below are available at no charge to customers whose shipping address is within the continental United States.

General Publications

- ☐ *NLS Handbook*
☐ *NLS News Newsletter Subscription*

Technical Manuals

- ☐ *NLSY97 User's Guide 2000*
☐ *NLSY79 User's Guide 1999*
☐ *NLS Mature Women User's Guide 2001*
☐ *NLS Young Women User's Guide 2001*
☐ *NLS Older and Young Men User's Guide (forthcoming)*
☐ *NLSY79 Child and Young Adult Data Users Guide 1998*

Summary Reports

- ☐ *NLS Older Male Sample Revisited*
☐ *Children of the NLSY79: 1988 Tabulation & Summary Discussion*
☐ *Maternal-Child Health Data from the NLSY79: 1988 Tabulations and Summary Discussion*
☐ *The Ten-and-Over Years: Self-Reports from the Children of the NLSY79: 1990 Tabulations and Summary Discussion*
☐ *NLSY79 Children 1992: Description and Evaluation*
☐ *Patterning of Child Assessment Completion Rates in the NLSY79: 1986-1996*

Children of the NLSY79 Assessment Tables

- ☐ *1994 NLSY79 Child Assessments: Selected Tables*
☐ *1996 NLSY79 Child Assessments: Selected Tables*
☐ *1998 NLSY79 Child Assessments: Selected Tables*

Children of the NLSY79 Bibliographies

- ☐ *Research Using NLSY79 Data on Fertility, Child Care, & Child Development*
☐ *Child Assessment Research*

Mailings outside the Continental United States: Persons requesting shipment of any item except the NLS newsletter to an address outside the United States should specify the type of mail service desired (air or surface). CHRR will calculate the shipping costs and notify you of the shipping fee. Purchase order or payment (make checks payable to OSU/Center for Human Resource Research) must be received before shipment can be made.

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NLS User Services Office
921 Chatham Lane, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43221-2418

Phone: (614) 442-7366
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E-mail: usersvc@postoffice.chrr.ohio-state.edu